

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 037-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: February 9, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name.

Subject: **MIAMI-DADE G.O. BOND TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

Attached please find a notice and article referencing the Miami-Dade G.O. Bond Town Hall Meeting to take place **tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. at Feinberg Fisher and on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at Bay Harbor Island City Hall, 9665 Bay Harbor Terrace.**

I am also attaching the preliminary G.O. Bond list the City Administration has compiled consisting of regional projects to be considered by the County and Miami Beach community for inclusion in this Countywide G. O. Bond referendum.

The attached list will be referred and discussed at the next Miami Beach Finance Committee meeting on Friday, February 20, 2004.

I encourage you to attend one or both of these town hall meetings if your schedules permit.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me.

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Citizens of Miami-Dade County
**If you want to have a positive impact on your
community, join us to build a better tomorrow**

Together, the residents of Miami-Dade County have a unique opportunity to develop a comprehensive capital improvement General Obligation Bond program to address the most important needs for the future of our community.

As our County progresses into the 21st century, we are seeking your input in making our community a better place to live, work and enjoy life to the fullest. You can help decide the proper mix of community centers, health facilities, roads and sidewalks, parks, museums, water and sewer improvements and much more to meet the needs of the future. A General Obligation Bond Program would provide funding for projects without increasing your property tax rates for debt service.

Town Hall Meetings are being held throughout the County to provide residents an opportunity to express their views as to which projects should be included. The bond program will be presented to the Miami-Dade County voters in the General Election on November 2, 2004.

We need your help!
Join us at a town meeting.

Tuesday, February 10, 2004
7:00 pm

Feinberg/Fisher Elementary School
1420 Washington Avenue



**For more information on the
Bond Program and
opportunities to
participate, please call
305-375-1900
or
visit our website
www.miamidade.gov/bond2004.**



**Q
A**

What is a General Obligation Bond Program?

A General Obligation Bond Program is a way to finance government capital improvement projects. With voters' approval, Miami-Dade County would be able to issue long-term bonds to fund new construction, renovations and expand facilities. These quality of life improvements would serve residents for many generations to come much like the 1972 Decade of Progress bond program that funded much of Miami-Dade County's existing infrastructure over the past 30 years including MetroZoo, libraries and road improvements.

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Will a General Obligation Bond Program require higher taxes?

The new bond program would not require an increase to the tax rate. While future taxes would be used to repay the bonds, the millage rate now budgeted for repayment of the Decade of Progress bonds, other general obligation debt, and a temporary emergency contingency reserve would be sufficient to cover debt service on a new bond program. (The County currently earmarks .105 mills for an emergency contingency reserve. Once this reserve is fully funded, the .105 mills would be added to the current .285 countywide debt service rate bringing the total debt service rate to .390 mills. This represents no increase in the tax rate.)

**Q
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What type of projects would be funded in a bond program?

The County Manager has identified a number of areas that are aimed at building better communities throughout Miami-Dade. It is expected that projects selected for bond funding would fulfill a multitude of needs including:

- **Keeping the Community Safe.** To maintain a low rate of crime and a higher level of personal safety, we must consider the need for expanded and new public safety facilities and equipment including police, courts and jails.
- **Preserving Our Resources.** Our natural resources are critical to our quality of life. Improvements to protect our water supply for future generations, beach restoration, better drainage and funding to address other environmental concerns are important to our quality of life.
- **Sustaining a Healthy Community.** Public health facilities and affordable housing are critical to the well being of our residents.
- **Accessing Services.** Expanded community centers in convenient locations would provide better access to County services for all residents. Technology investments could significantly improve the delivery of services and make more services available online 24 hours a day.

- **Enjoying Arts, Culture and Recreation.** Parks, museums, libraries, MetroZoo and other community recreational facilities enrich our lifestyle and play a vital role in tourism, the County's number one industry.

- **Neighborhood Improvements.** The bond program could provide additional funds for much needed neighborhood projects including more traffic signals, sidewalk repairs, and expanded bikeways.
- **Creating and Retaining Jobs.** Adequate infrastructure is critical for economic development. Expansion of our water and sewer system, for example, would provide new opportunities for business development in older urban neighborhoods as well as newer areas. Also, bond proceeds could be used to fund infrastructure improvements to induce new business to locate in Miami-Dade County.

**Q
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How much would it cost taxpayers?

As Decade of Progress bonds and other general obligation bonds are retired over the next 40 years, new debt will be issued. The cost of the new bond program would be an average of less than 50-cents a week on the average home (valued at \$127,000 in 2004).

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How will the County decide what projects to include in a new bond program?

A series of town meetings are being held throughout

Miami-Dade County to hear from residents on their priorities. All residents are being encouraged to voice their opinion by attending the town meetings and communicating with County officials. Meeting schedules are being published in local newspapers and can be found on the County's website. Those with computer access can provide input at

www.miamidade.gov/bond2004

by answering the online questionnaire. Following the town meetings, the County Manager will compile a list of recommended projects to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commission has the final authority in deciding what projects will be included in the bond program to be presented to voters as referendum question(s) on the November 2, 2004 General Election ballot.

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How can voters be sure bond dollars will be spent on the projects they approved in the bond referendum?

Bond funds can only be used on projects included in the bond program approved by voters. The project list will be finalized in July 2004 prior to the November election.

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What will happen if Miami-Dade residents vote NO for a new bond program?

Many of the improvement projects that affect residents' quality of life will not happen. Further postponement of critical projects could lead to higher costs in the future. Much of the infrastructure in the County today—from MetroZoo and parks to our water and sewer

systems and traffic improvements—was built with bond funds from the 1972 Decade of Progress bond program. It's hard to imagine the County without these projects.

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Who can vote on the bond issue?

All Miami-Dade County voters registered in time who cast a ballot in the November 2, 2004 General Election.

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If the bond program is approved by voters in November, when would the community see the improvements?

Work on the projects would begin immediately while the bonds would be repaid over a 40-year time-period. The community improvements would be seen over the next few years and would continue for approximately 10-15 years.

For more information on the 2004 Bond Program and opportunities to participate, please call 305-375-2200 or visit our website www.miamidade.gov/bond2004



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Mayor

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Posted on Sun, Feb. 08, 2004

MIAMI BEACH

Forums to discuss bond issue

Special to The Herald

Miami-Dade County will host two town hall meetings for Miami Beach residents to discuss a proposed General Obligation Bond issue that will be on the November ballot.

County staff will discuss proposed projects for the bond initiative, which is similar to the 1972 Decade of Progress Bond that was used to fund projects such as Metrozoo, new libraries, regional parks, and capital improvement projects including water and sewer system expansions.

The new plan proposes to issue approximately \$1.6 billion to \$2 billion in bonds that would fund projects to be constructed over the next 10 to 15 years. If voters approve the new bond program, the current tax rate supporting debt service would not change, according to a release from the county.

Among the projects the new bond initiative would fund are public safety facilities, park and cultural projects, roadway and bikeway systems, sidewalk and pedestrian improvements, new museums, additional water and sewer system extensions, public health facilities and neighborhood service centers.

At the meetings, Miami-Dade County staffers will seek input from residents prior to creating a project list for the proposed bond program.

The meetings will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School, 1420 Washington Ave.; and 7 p.m. Wednesday at Bay Harbor Island City Hall, 9665 Bay Harbor Ter.

For more information, visit www.miamidade.govbond2004.



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List of Projects to be considered for inclusion in Miami-Dade County General Obligation Bond Issue

Regional Projects:

Convention Center Expansion
 Ballroom - \$50 Million
 Parking Garage - \$35 Million
Beachwalk / Baywalk
Indian Creek Greenway - \$15 Million
10th Street Auditorium - \$5 Million
Frank Gehry Park - \$15 Million
Jackie Gleason Theater
Beachfront Restrooms - \$2.5 Million
Lummas Park - \$5 Million
Monument Island
Fire Station # 2 EOC - \$4 Million
Altos Del Mar Park - \$5 Million
South Pointe Park - \$5 Million
Police Department Capital Needs
Fire Department Capital Needs
Beach Patrol Capital Needs
Old City Hall

Organizational Projects

Wolfsonian - \$40 Million
Miami Beach Botanical Garden
Bass Museum of Art Phase II
Boys and Girls Club Recreation Center
Police Athletic League Recreation Center
Byron Carlyle Theater Phase III

County Projects

North Shore Library
Venetian Causeway Master Plan Phase II
North Shore Open Space Park Maintenance
 Facility - \$1.8 Million
Citywide ADA Beach Access

Environmental Projects

Beach Renourishment
Shoreline Stabilization
Canal Cleanup / Dredging

Parking & Transportation Projects

Electrowave Expansion and Vehicles
41st Street Bridge Repair/Restoration, 41st
 Street Streetscape Improvements
Washington Avenue Masterplan - \$11.8
 Million
West Avenue Corridor Improvements
Cultural Campus Streetscape
Dade Boulevard Intersection Improvements
La Gorce / Pine Tree Median Improvements
Alton Road Corridor Enhancements
23rd Street Bridge
Parking Garage Projects
 -City Hall West Garage Expansion
 -Walker Parking Implementation
 -Collins Park Parking Project
 -North Beach Parking Structure
 -Surface Lot Renovations

Infrastructure & Amenities

Neighborhood Water and Sewer
 Improvements
Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements
Collins Avenue Water Line Relocation
Lincoln Road Improvements
South Beach Service Team Equipment
Citywide ADA Sidewalk Curb Cut Plan
Citywide Signage Plan, Entrance Signage
20th Street and Alton Road Fountain
South Shore Community Center
Colony Theater
North Shore Open Space Park Nature
 Center - \$1 Million
Normandy Shores Golf Course
Miami Beach Golf Club
Allison Park
Collins Park
Flamingo Park
Normandy Isle Park